(d) by when Government propose to repair the roads and footpaths in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. After trenching and cable laying, earth refilling works have already been completed by MTNL contractor.

(b) After the refilling work, final reinstatement of road/footpath has to be done by Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(c) MTNL contractor, M/s HCL has been instructed for proper filling of the trenches in portion where it has not been done properly.

(d) The roads/footpaths are to be reinstated by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The road restoration charges for this have already been paid to MCD by MTNL Delhi in advance.

Celluar Phone Service by DOT

33. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to establish a cellular phone service by DOT in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any litigation regarding the establishment of cellular phone service by DOT any where in India; and

(d) if so, what are the action taken to overcome that difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The proposal to establish cellular service by DOT is under examination of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no litigation regarding the establishment of cellular phone service by the DOT. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its judgement dated 17.02.1998 had held the licence of MTNL to commence and carry on the business of providing mobile cellular services in Delhi and Mumbai as invalid. Appeal was filed against the TRAI's judgement in Delhi High Court. In the judgement dated 16.07.1998, the Delhi High Court had quashed the order of TRAI.

One of the private operators has filed on Letters Patent Appeal in Division bench of Delhi High Court challenging the judgement of single bench judge. The case is fixed for hearing on 3rd March, 1999.

Outstanding licence fee against cellular telecom operators

34. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of outstanding licence fee remaining unpaid by private basic and cellular telecom operators;

(b) the reasons for allowing such operators to carry on their operations without payment of licence fee; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the operators pay the dues and the terms and conditions now stipulated by Government for renewal of their licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 31.01.1999 a sum of Rs. 815.68 crs. from Basic and Rs. 2892.42 crs. from Cellular operators is outstanding towards Licence Fee including interest thereon.

(b) and (c) As per Licence conditions, the Licensing Authority has been making demands on the operators to pay the licence fees, but the licensees, individually as well through their Associations have been representing that the Govt. should give some relief to them due to non-viability, etc. of their projects.

Letters have been issued to the Cellular & Basic Service operators on 25.01.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest thereon immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, payment of atleast 20% or more of the total dues should be made by 15.02.99. The operators have further been asked to enhance the financial bank guarantees to cover the balance amount payable after deducting the amount paid. Since the licences are issued for 15 years in respect of Basic